



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**UKRAINIAN SAILBOAT CAPTAIN  
INDICTED ON ILLEGAL ALIEN SMUGGLING CHARGES**

**SAVANNAH, GA:** Lisa Godbey Wood, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced that the federal grand jury sitting in Savannah has returned an indictment against a Ukrainian National on federal immigration charges. The indictment was brought in conjunction with the various Department of Homeland Security agencies working jointly to stop illegal entry into the United States through Coastal Georgia.

Anatoliy Maksyminko was charged in a single count indictment with bringing eleven illegal aliens into the United States without authorization in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii). The indictment charges that on or about February 25, 2005, Maksyminko brought eleven illegal aliens into the United States without authority and for commercial advantage and private financial gain. This charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000.

The defendant was arrested on Friday, February 25, and was detained following his Initial Appearance before a U.S. Magistrate Judge.

Also in custody are the eleven Ukrainian citizens that Maksyminko allegedly brought into the United States. These individuals were detained following their Initial Appearances before a U.S. Magistrate Judge and are being held as material witnesses.

Wood praised the cooperative efforts of the United States Coast Guard, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) which led to the indictment and arrest.

Wood emphasized that an indictment is only an accusation and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is entitled to a fair trial, during which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The government is being represented by Assistant United States Attorneys Brian F. McEvoy and Jeffrey J. Buerstatte.

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